

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SS-15 SCS-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 USIA-06 SCA-01 DPW-01 /070 R

DRAFTED BY EA/LC:MHENDERSON:JY

APPROVED BY D:MR. INGERSO-L

S/S:REWOODS

EA - MR. MILLER

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P R 081853Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052737

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MOPS, CASC, LA

SUBJECT:DEAN/SHARMAN CASE

GENEVA FOR SIEVERTS

FOR POLAD

1. ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL CALLED IN LAO AMBASSADOR
KHAMPAN PANYA ON MARCH 7 TO DISCUSS THE CASE. MR.
INGERSOLL TOLD THE AMBASSADOR TO INFORM HIS GOVERNMENT
THAT WE DO NOT ACCEPT PATHET LAO DENIALS OF HOLDING DEAN
AND SHARMAN AND THAT IF THEY ARE NOT RELEASED SOON THE
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CASE WILL HAVE A SERIOUS EFFECT ON US/LAO RELATIONS.

2. AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT AFTER INFORMING HIS GOVERNMENT OF HIS JANUARY 17 MEETING WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, HE HAD RECEIVED TWO MESSAGES FROM FOREIGN MINISTER PHOUMI VONGVICHY WHICH DID NOT SPECIFICALLY DENY THAT DEAN AND SHARMAN ARE BEING HELD BUT SAID THAT INVESTIGATIONS, WHICH CONTINUE, HAVE TURNED UP NOTHING YET. THE AMBASSADOR REPEATED STATEMENT HE HAD MADE EARLIER THAT HE HAD TOLD PHOUMI THE CASE IS HANDICAPPING HIS MISSION HERE. THE ACTING SECRETARY AGREED THAT THE CASE WILL AFFECT THE AMBASSADOR'S MISSION HERE IF NO PROGRESS IS SOON FORTHCOMING.

3. ACTING SECRETARY STRESSED THE FACT THAT DEAN IS A TOURIST, A PRIVATE CITIZEN AND NOT A PRISONER OF WAR. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE PARALLEL EFFORTS BEING MADE BY THE AUSTRALIANS ON BEHALF OF SHARMAN.

4. THE AMBASSADOR ASKED ABOUT THE RESULTS OF MRS. DEAN'S RECENT TRIP TO LAOS. HE WAS TOLD OF HER EXPECTATIONS, AFTER SEEING PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG, THAT THERE WOULD BE SOME PROGRESS IN THE CASE AND HOW NOTHING HAD DEVELOPED. ACTING SECRETARY TOLD HIM WE WERE AT A LOSS TO UNDERSTAND WHAT COULD BE THE PATHET LAO MOTIVES FOR HOLDING THESE YOUNG MEN. THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE WAS EQUALLY BAFFLED; 'WE LIVE IN TWO DIFFERENT WORLDS, WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND THE WAY THE PATHET LAO THINK.'

5. THE AMBASSADOR ASSURED THE ACTING SECRETARY THAT HE WOULD AGAIN INFORM PHOUMI OF OUR FEELINGS AND WILL POINT OUT TO PHOUMI HOW SERIOUS THE SITUATION WILL BE IF THE CASE IS NOT CLEARED UP NOW. INGERSOLL

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